

~~SECRET~~

PAGE:4549

/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

BODY

SUBJECT: LATIN AMERICA BRIEF [REDACTED] FOR 25 FEBRUARY 1992.

CONTENTS

1. HAITI: AGREEMENT REACHED, HURDLES REMAIN [REDACTED]

2. [REDACTED]

3. [REDACTED]

1. HAITI: AGREEMENT REACHED, HURDLES REMAIN [REDACTED]

SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS APPARENTLY WILL ACCEPT THE OAS-BROKERED ACCORD BETWEEN PRESIDENT ARISTIDE AND HAITIAN LEGISLATORS, BUT RATIFICATION WILL HINGE ON WHETHER ENLISTED TROOPS SUPPORT THE AGREEMENT. ARMED FORCES COMMANDER CEDRAS AND OTHER SENIOR OFFICERS--INCLUDING POLICE CHIEF FRANCOIS--[REDACTED] TO THE ACCORD AFTER RECEIVING ADVANCE NOTICE THAT ARISTIDE WOULD ACCEDE TO ALL THE LEGISLATURE'S DEMANDS. CEDRAS IS NOT CONFIDENT, HOWEVER, THAT THE ENLISTED TROOPS WILL GO ALONG WITH THE ACCORD, AND [REDACTED] SOME TROOPS ARE PREPARED TO USE FORCE TO BLOCK LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL OF ANY AGREEMENT THAT INCLUDES ARISTIDE'S RETURN. PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT SOME 200 ANTI-ARISTIDE DEMONSTRATORS WHO WERE PROTESTING THE SETTLEMENT TRIED YESTERDAY TO OCCUPY THE EMPTY PARLIAMENT BUILDING. [REDACTED]

COMMENT: THE NEXT FEW DAYS WILL BE CRITICAL FOR THE AGREEMENT AS THE MILITARY COMMAND TRIES TO ASSUAGE THE FEARS OF ENLISTED TROOPS AND REIN IN RIGHTWING EXTREMISTS. IF CEDRAS AND FRANCOIS FAIL TO CONVINCE THE SOLDIERS, THEY PROBABLY WILL ABANDON THE AGREEMENT RATHER THAN RISK FORCING THE ISSUE. PRECIPITOUS STATEMENTS BY ARISTIDE OR HIS SUPPORTERS TO FIX THE DATE OF HIS RETURN WOULD ALSO WRECK THE AGREEMENT. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] CEDRAS MAY NOT GO ALONG WITH THE ACCORD AND THAT HE COULD SUPPORT AN ATTEMPT BY ENLISTED TROOPS TO

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

PAGE:4550

BLOCK PARLIAMENTARY ACTION. [REDACTED]

BOX

HAITI: KEY ELEMENTS OF THE PROTOCOL

THE "HAITIAN CRISIS PROTOCOL" CALLS FOR A NATIONAL CONSENSUS GOVERNMENT, PRESUMABLY HEADED BY PRIME MINISTER-DESIGNATE THEODORE. IN EXCHANGE FOR A COMMITMENT TO HIS REINSTATEMENT--WITH NO DATE SPECIFIED--PRESIDENT ARISTIDE AGREED TO ALL THE LEGISLATURE'S DEMANDS, INCLUDING ENDING HIS OPPOSITION TO ARMED FORCES COMMANDER CEDRAS. OTHER PROVISIONS INCLUDE:

--A GENERAL AMNESTY, EXCEPT FOR COMMON CRIMINALS.

--ACCEPTANCE OF ALL ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE LEGISLATURE, INCLUDING MILITARY APPOINTMENTS, ALTHOUGH ARISTIDE HAS THE RIGHT TO APPEAL SPECIFIC ACTIONS TO A CONCILIATION COMMISSION.

--A RECOMMENDATION THAT THE OAS PUT ITS DEMOCRACY COMMISSION IN PLACE TO MONITOR THE ACCORD AND HELP STRENGTHEN HAITI'S POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS.

--A CALL FOR ALL PARTIES END TO THE EMBARGO, RESUME AID, AND REJECT ANY INTERNATIONAL ARMED INTERVENTION IN HAITI'S AFFAIRS.

--RECOGNITION OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL SEPARATION OF POWERS AND A PROMISE TO PROTECT CIVIL LIBERTIES.

--ENACTMENT OF LAWS SEPARATING THE ARMED FORCES FROM THE POLICE AND ESTABLISHING AN OFFICE FOR CITIZENS' PROTECTION.

THE LEGISLATURE MUST RATIFY THE PROTOCOL BEFORE ANY OF THE PROVISIONS GO INTO EFFECT; THIS WOULD REQUIRE A MAJORITY VOTE OF BOTH HOUSES SITTING JOINTLY. [REDACTED]

~~SECRET~~